

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. LXXVIII

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Zoom

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**PRESENT:** Dr. David Farrar, Dr. Aaron Schat, Dr. Alison Holloway, Dr. Ameil Joseph, Dr. Bhagwati Gupta, Dr. Carlos Filipe, Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty, Dr. Christina Baade, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Doug Welch, Dr. Erik Sorensen, Dr. Hans Boden, Dr. Ishwar Puri, Dr. Janie Astephen-Wilson, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Dr. Joseph Sokalski, Dr. Judy Fudge, Dr. Juliet Daniel, Dr. Karen Mossman, Dr. Kathryn Mattison, Dr. Judy Fudge, Dr. Juliet Daniel, Dr. Karen Mossman, Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Kim Jones, Dr. Laura Parker, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Mark Walton, Dr. Martin Horn, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Megan Brickley, Dr. Nicola Nicolici, Dr. Pamela Baxter, Dr. Pamela Swett, Dr. Patrick Bennett, Dr. Peter Miu, Dr. Robert O'Brien, Dr. Sherman Cheung, Dr. Susan Searls Giroux, Dr. Thomas Adams, Mr. Roger Couldrey, Mr. Gary Collins, Mr. Mr. Ryan Witcher, Mr. Tevin Heath, Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Mr. Sahand Sepehrvand, Ms Manisha Pahwa, Ms Geil Astorga, Ms Anita Acai, Ms Leah Allen, Ms Beth Manganelli Staite, Ms Mary Williams, Ms Moira Taylor, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Michelle Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Governance Coordinator)

**OBSERVERS:** Ms. Carolyn Brendon, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Ms Esme Davies, Dr. Susan Denburg, Ms Andrea Farquhar, Mr. Giancarlo Da-Ré, Ms. Vivian Lewis, Dr Alison Sills, Ms Melissa Pool, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Dr. Arig al Shaibah, Dr. Peter Mascher, Ms Rachel Murgel

**REGRETS RECEIVED:** Dr. Paul O'Bryne, Dr. Len Waverman, Ms Cassidy Bereskin

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**A. OPEN SESSION**

**OPENING REMARKS**

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting.

Dr. Farrar explained that the recent Senate meetings have all been focused on the impact of COVID-19 and our responses to it, and that it will be discussed again today, but first he wanted to speak about something even more important and fundamental to our community and society. Dr. Farrar noted that *"We have all watched with grief and anger as recent events have unfolded in the United States and in Canada, and as black members of our society have been targeted, abused and killed. Anti-black racism and violence have persisted in our society for far too long. I want to publicly denounce this and acknowledge the deep pain, grief, and harm that members of our communities, particularly Black communities, are experiencing at this time. I also want to acknowledge the many colleagues around the University who have made their voices heard. I appreciate the work of the*

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*Equity and Inclusion Office, the members of PACBIC, the members of the African Caribbean Faculty Association of McMaster University, the Community Engagement Office, the MSU and others who are identifying and challenging systemic racism and systemic inequities, and offering support to our students, colleagues and friends. The “new normal” that I mentioned earlier makes us physically distant but cannot divide us as a community, nor diminish our responsibility to support and respect one another. We must acknowledge the deeply-rooted, historic and ongoing pain that Black members of our community face. And we must act. The African Caribbean Faculty Association issued a moving and thought-provoking statement yesterday. I thank them for doing so and reminding us all of our obligations and responsibilities as members and leaders of the University community, and as citizens. Our agenda today includes the annual report from PACBIC, which gives us a further opportunity to reflect on the challenges faced by many groups in our community and on our campus. We must educate ourselves and hold ourselves accountable. We are being asked to consider the actions that need to be taken - individually and collectively - to address these serious and divisive issues and inequities, and to move our community and institution forward. Words must come with action. I look forward to hearing Senators’ reflections on the PACBIC report when it is presented.”*

Dr. Farrar explained that an announcement was released regarding the plans for the fall term to be almost entirely online with a few exceptions for courses that require access to labs and other specialized facilities. As well, residence spaces are only being offered on an exceptional basis in order to reduce health risks and meet physical distancing requirements. A phased return to research is underway, with Phase 1 beginning on May 30, 2020. As of June 1, 2020, more than 200 submissions, representing more than 1,100 faculty, students, and staff, had been approved to support research activities across campus. Dr. Farrar noted that they continue to be extremely concerned about the impact of the current situation on graduate students. On May 15, 2020, all inbound and outbound McMaster international exchange programs were suspended until at least the end of 2020. Approximately 160 students are affected by the suspension.

Dr. Farrar thanked Senators for their ongoing support and acknowledged the following retiring Senators:

- Faculty of Business: *Dr. Aaron Schat, Ms Mariam Munawar*
- Faculty of Engineering: *Dr. Thomas Adams, Mr. Daniel Morrison*
- Faculty of Humanities: *Dr. Joseph Sokalski, Dr. Nancy Doubleday*
- Faculty of Social Sciences: *Dr. Robert O’Brien, Dr. Victor Satzewich*
- Faculty of Science: *Dr. Hans Boden, Dr. Bhagwati Gupta, Dr. Erik Sorensen, Mr. Tevin Heath*
- Faculty of Health Sciences: *Dr. Alison Holloway, Dr. Anne Niec*
- Board Representative: *Mr. Andrew Colgoni*

Dr. Farrar noted that normally he would wish everyone a good summer, but Senate will be meeting over the summer. Dr. Farrar wished everyone a productive and safe summer and congratulated the graduating students.

**1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – OPEN SESSION**

Dr. Farrar confirmed that no requests had been received to move any items from the Consent to the Regular agenda of the Open Session.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the Open Session agenda for the meeting of June 3, 2020 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.**

The motion was **carried**.

**CONSENT****2 MINUTES of the Meeting of May 13, 2020 – Open Session**

Motion:

**that the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on May 13, 2020 be approved as circulated.**

**Approved by Consent.**

**REGULAR****3 BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising.

**4 ENQUIRIES**

A member thanked Dr. Farrar for the kind words and asked if students who live close to campus will be prohibited from entering campus in the fall. Dr. Farrar explained that there have been discussions, but an answer will not be able to be provided until closer to September. The decision will depend upon the progress over the summer and the possibility of a second wave of COVID-19. Dr. Farrar noted that there will be signage on staircases and they will monitor how many individuals are in the buildings. McMaster's decisions are driven by Public Health and the status of the virus. The social distancing restrictions limit the use of the campus. Mr. Van Koughnett explained that they are looking at how they can establish a culture in the student population while minimizing exposure and risk. Decisions will depend on MSU, MAPS and the administration. Mr. Van Koughnett noted that social distancing is imperative and that it has to be reinforced to keep the community healthy.

**5 COMMUNICATIONS****a. COVID-19 Update from Acting Vice-Provost, Faculty**

Dr. Kim Dej, Acting Vice-Provost, Faculty provided an update.

Dr. Dej noted that there are many individuals to thank for planning Fall 2020. Dr. Dej thanked the Associate Deans Group for communicating with their program leads and instructors. Dr. Dej noted that it was not easy to move the Fall term to virtual classes and that there is an appreciation for in person learning. There is a committee that will look at building relationships in an online environment and a group that is identifying spaces for recorded lessons. Dr. Dej thanked faculty for the sacrifices they have made to move their courses online. The group is tasked with imagining through the uncertainty of what Winter 2020 will look like and considering different scenarios while prioritizing the safety of everyone. There is a group piloting online proctoring tools and the McPherson staff have been working long hours. Dr. Dej noted there are a series of different supports becoming available and phased in. The Office of Community Engagement has developed a connections program and is listening to what the community needs and does not need.

**b. COVID-19 Update from Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies**

Dr. Doug Welch, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies provided an update.

Dr. Welch explained that acceptance was up this year for international students. Masters are up 20% and Doctoral is up 31% relative to the same time last year. Dr. Welch noted that they are working with the Associate Deans on seeing if they can meet with appropriate groups so that all incoming students can receive lab training. Currently only already trained students are able to access the labs due to the restrictions. Dr. Welch explained that he is meeting with Dr. Mossman and other individuals to see if a change can be made to the existing policy.

Dr. Welch explained that international graduate students are facing many challenges. Currently they are unable to arrive, and those students with study permits dated before March 15, 2020 are being asked why they need to arrive in Canada since most programs are offered online. Should the students be allowed to come, they will need to self isolate. Currently the undergraduate residence is not full and provides an opportunity. Dr. Welch noted that he is in discussion with Housing and Conference Services. A concern is that a large number of international students have financial support packages that often involve employment. Dr. Welch explained that legal limitations are being reviewed and he is meeting with the Associate Deans tomorrow.

A member noted that not having a clear statement has made it difficult since the IRCC website has different information posted. Dr. Welch explained that IRCC is doing a good job of keeping communication lines open and quickly said that students can start in the fall. If students were coming solely to do work that they are willing to do online, they are able to continue to do that. Dr. Welch noted that we have to sort out what we can do legally.

A member asked if graduate students will be able to arrive with residences being empty and if there are plans in place if students arrive in the winter. Dr. Welch explained that there are no plans in place at the present. A member noted that students might choose to remain in their home country for the holidays and arrive after the holidays. Dr. Welch explained that they will look at detailed timelines as the situation evolves. If residences are filled with undergraduate students, that will not be a feasible solution.

**c. COVID-19 Update from Associate Vice-President (Students and Learning) and Dean of Students**

Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Associate Vice-President (Students and Learning) and Dean of Students, provided an update.

Mr. Van Koughnett explained that since courses moved online in mid-March there have been a few incidents in the virtual online classrooms regarding conduct and harassing comments. Mr. Van Koughnett noted that there are mechanisms in place to deal with these situations and that as courses move completely online, they are anticipating having to deal with more of these issues. Better education around the expectations for students is needed and some of the information is being built into the course outlines.

Mr. Van Koughnett explained that one area where McMaster deviates from other institutions is with the residence decision. McMaster has 4,000 beds available, but will not put two students in the same room and some floors are not considered safe where the washrooms are shared by a number of students. McMaster would only be able to potentially house 1,000 or 1,500 students. Other institutions are placing first year students in hotels. Mr. Van Koughnett noted that they considered that option but thought it would not be a healthy experience and it would not be the same as a residence experience. There is a push to make first year online for the fall and to limit students in residence based on exceptional circumstances. Mr. Van Koughnett noted that since that announcement was made, other universities have reached out to McMaster for information. There is still the possibility that students may decide to defer before September, and most schools are anticipating attrition over the summer.

**d. COVID-19 Update from Acting Vice-President, Research**

Dr. Karen Mossman, Acting Vice-President, Research provided an update.

Dr. Mossman explained that they have initiated the phase to increase field work. The return has gone well with research slowly picking up and there have not been any issues. Dr. Mossman thanked everyone that was involved. There was a great effort from the Associate Deans Research in all faculties, Facility Services, Health and Safety, and HR. Dr. Mossman thanked Dr. Andy Knights and Dr. Rob Baker. Two online webinars were held which had over 400 faculty members participating.

Dr. Mossman thanked the researchers who served as panel members in the adjudication of the McMaster COVID-19 Research Fund applications. There were over 150 applications submitted and the results will be communicated in the coming weeks.

**e. COVID-19 Update from Vice-Provost, International Affairs**

This report was included for information.

**f. COU Academic Colleague Update**

Dr. Maureen MacDonald provided a verbal update.

Dr. MacDonald explained that the COU Academic Colleagues met on May 13, 2020. The COU organized three main COVID-19 working groups to focus on student supports and financial hardships for students. The COU made a submission to Ontario Jobs, highlighting the capabilities, addressing economic recovery, and the health and safety of students. An update was received that the COU is in the process of replacing the president, Mr. David Lindsay. Dr. MacDonald noted that colleagues from across Ontario have mentioned that the consistency and transparency of the messaging at McMaster is beneficial.

**g. President's Advisory Committee on Building an Inclusive Community – Annual Report**

Dr. Arig al Shaibah and Dr. Eugenia Zuroski, co-chairs of PACBIC, provided an update.

Dr. al Shaibah explained that the report speaks for itself and that she wanted to take a few minutes to reflect on some of the current events happening and how they relate to the value and role of PACBIC. PACBIC's purpose is to create a supportive space for marginalized members and to provide a forum for dialogue. On Monday, PACBIC released a statement regarding anti-black racism which was endorsed by Dr. Farrar and upper management. Dr. al Shaibah noted that she is proud to be one of the universities that made a statement. The African and Caribbean Association issued a statement urging the University, and a call out to the Senate, to take the lead and an unequivocal position. Members of the Indigenous Community has also offered support. The Faculty of Science issued a statement which was a good show of coordinated decentralization.

PACBIC continues to support this work and continues to work with engaging with both intra and inter group dialogue. Dr. al Shaibah noted that it requires compassion, courage, and collation for us to be agents of change. PACBIC has existed for 15 years, and is one of the embodiments to McMaster's commitment to equity and inclusion. Dr. al Shaibah noted that there is difficult but necessary work ahead.

Dr. Zuroski added that one thing that was learned from this year of work is that the individuals involved in PACBIC work selflessly. The work never stops, and it is work that keeps you up at night. Dr. Zuroski noted that the people involved do not do it because it is the type of work that comes with rewards, they do it because they have a passionate commitment to making sure that all members of the community can work and live with fair and respectful terms and that everyone has the capacity to flourish. Dr. Zuroski explained that this week more people around the world are feeling the urgency attached to the questions of equity and justice. It is an urgency that PACBIC members feel all of the time. Now is a time when we may be able to mobilize into action and hopefully, we can move through this moment together; a moment of community broadening and community building.

Dr. al Shaibah added that the Faculty of Humanities and Engineering circulated a statement today.

Dr. Farrar thanked Dr. al Shaibah and Dr. Zuroski.

## 6 REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Kim Dej, Acting Vice-Provost, Faculty, presented the report from Undergraduate Council.

Dr. Dej explained that there was one item for approval.

### 1. Revisions to Certificate and Diploma Programs

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the revisions to the McMaster English Language Development (MELD) Diploma program, as circulated.**

The motion was **carried**.

The other item was for information.

## 7 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL

This report was for information.

## 8 REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Farrar acknowledged the terrific role Dr. Searls Giroux has done this year and thanked her for her work.

Dr. Susan Searls-Giroux, Chair of the University Planning Committee, presented the report.

Dr. Searls-Giroux explained that on May 13, 2020, the University Planning Committee reviewed the following two items and now recommends them to Senate for approval.

1. The Centre for Human Rights and Restorative Justice (CHRRJ)

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the establishment of the Centre for Human Rights and Restorative Justice (CHRRJ) as circulated.**

The motion was **carried**.

2. The Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute (SCC-RI) Termination

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the termination of the Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute (SCC-RI), effective June 30, 2020.**

A member questioned why the centre was being terminated. Dr. Denburg explained that there was a sense that the life trajectory of the institute had gone its course and the core members were looking to move elsewhere. There was a unanimous recommendation that the institute be terminated. Dr. Denburg noted that supporters and donors of the institute were all engaged and were supportive of the termination.

A member noted that they were disappointed by this decision and noted that faculty outside of the Faculty of Health Sciences should have been included in the decision. The member explained that they would like to see the next institute being inclusive and embracing all faculties.

The motion was **carried**.

(2 opposed)

3. Consolidated Budget

Dr. Julie Richardson, Chair of the Budget Committee presented the report. Mr. Iain Clarkson and Ms Dee Henne were in attendance to answer questions. This item was for information.

Dr. Richardson thanked members for the opportunity to present the budget. Dr. Richardson explained that the Budget Committee oversees the operating fund. External funding is restricted to specific activity. The operating budget is \$721 million which represents 72% of the total budget revenue. Highlights of the budget



include the continued freezing of domestic fees, performance-based funding, delaying of SMA 3, and unprecedented adjustments for COVID-19. Capacity has increased due to increasing capital projects such as PGCLL which opened in the fall and provided a 36% increase in classroom space.

Dr. Richardson noted that there is a continued freeze on fees following the cut in 2019/20 and that the plan for growth from international students is anticipated to decrease due to COVID-19. As well, there will likely be an impact on return on investments. Dr. Richardson explained that budget pressures include the impact of COVID-19, the pension, and higher exchange rates. The strategic plan includes forward with integrity and the strategic mandate agreement, research for a brighter world and the capital master plan. Priorities continue to be research excellence and graduate education, student experience and community connections. Initiatives include student experience, innovation in teaching and learning excellence, and access and equity Dr. Richardson explained that the enrollment demand remains high, and increases are expected to be maintained and managed. In 2021, it is assumed that undergraduate enrollment will be flat and the 10% reduction for domestic tuition will be maintained. The budget is structurally balanced and there is a one-time adjustment for COVID-19. Dr. Richardson noted that capital spent in the year will appear as revenue even though the funding was spent.

Ms Henne explained that the final slide of the presentation shows a stress test. The charts show a conservative budget even though revenue has been reduced for international enrollment. If there is far greater lack of participation from the international component, the carry forward should be able to handle the problems. In addition, signals from the enrollment team suggest that the extra stress test may be too deep of a stress. Ms Henne noted that they have made a commitment to bring the budget back before Christmas, once enrollment is known, and update the projections.

A member asked which employees are considered non-academic. Dr. Richardson explained that non-academic employees are staff and researchers; everyone who is in a non faculty position. Ms Henne added that it includes UNIFOR and support staff.

Dr. Farrar thanked everyone.

The remaining item was for information.

## **9 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Chair of the Committee on Student Affairs, presented the report.

Mr. Van Koughnett explained that on May 27, 2020 the Committee on Student Affairs approved the revisions to the Policy on Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities and now recommends it to Senate for approval. Mr. Van Koughnett noted that there were minor revisions due to changes to Ontario's access and privacy laws.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the revisions to the Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities Policy, effective September 1, 2020, as circulated.**

The motion was **carried**.

## 10 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Alison Holloway, Chair of the Committee on Appointments, presented the report from the Committee on Appointments.

Dr. Holloway explained that on May 25, 2020, the Committee on Appointments approved the Terms of Reference for the Director, Experiential Learning and now recommends it to Senate for approval.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the amendments to the terms of reference for the Director, Experiential Learning, as circulated.**

The motion was **carried**.

## 11 OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. Suspension of By-Law 46

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate invoke By-law 174 and suspend By-law 46 to allow for regular meetings of the Senate to be held in July 2020 and August 2020, under the normal Rules of Procedures.**

The motion was **carried**.